



2020 Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 2020 (9:30 AM)

"The community of Living Grace exists to make known God's love and grace by welcoming everyone, sharing the story of Jesus, growing in faith, and serving beyond ourselves."

Core Values of Living Grace

- Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- We humbly welcome, accept and value everyone.
- We are strengthened in worship through Word and Sacrament.
- We value faith as an ongoing journey of renewal and growth.
- We recognize and respond to the needs in our community and the world.
- We bring God's message of hope into the world.

All are Welcome



Song: *All are Welcome* by Marty Haugen

Artwork created by Pastor Hope Deutscher

2020 Annual Meeting Agenda:

Welcome/Call to Order

Coalition/Partnership with Gran-Park-Rollag Parish Update

- Mutual Ministry between Living Grace and GPR
- Living Grace Representatives - Transforming Workshops with Rick Morse

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- 2020 Contract

Stewardship and Financial Resources

- Financial Report (Prepared by Brett Dahl)
- Fundraising
- (Audit Committee: _____, _____)

Lent/Holy Week Schedule

- We are scheduled to host/serve the service/noon lunch on Wed. March 4 @ UMC-Hawley
- Joint Wednesday evening Lenten Services with GPR. Living Grace will host on Wed., March 25. *Band of Faith* will join us to provide music.
- Good Friday service at Living Grace – 7 PM Friday, April 10, 2020.

Outreach Positions:

2 Delegates to Northwestern MN ELCA Synod Assembly Gathering (Fri/Sat, June 12-13 @ Concordia College)

Other Topics:

Leadership Team:

Craig Larson, Deb Andvik, Galen Andvik, Alicia Carley, Loretta Ramstad (Secretary), Brett Dahl (Treasurer)

Living Grace 2020 Statistical Report

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>
Disciples (Members)	36	49	49	54	53	54	52	50*
Associate Disciples (Members)		2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Potential Disciples (Members)				54	61			
Inactive Members								7
Active Members								32
Baptisms	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Confirmation(s)	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	
First Communion							3	2
Deaths	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	2
Transfer of Membership (out)					1	1	0	0
Transfer of Membership (in)						2	0	0

Attendance Statistics:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Average Sunday Worship	28	29	29	26	20	20	16	17	12
Average Winter/Spring (Jan-May)	26	24	32	25	22	23	24	17	13
Average Summer Worship	29	24	26	21	17	14	13	20	11
Average Fall Worship (Sept-Dec)	30	30	28	30	18	20	17	15	12
Average Advent Midweek Worship	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lent Worship (w/GPR)								82	75
Easter Worship	64	68	43	35	38	46	38	28	36
Christmas Worship	57	69	58	36	32	32	45	30	35
Sunday School	3	5	5	5	1	6	1	2	2
Confirmation	---	---	1	4	3	0	0	1	2
Post-Confirmation/Luther League					1	4	4	4	4

Financial Notes:

Our income includes: Pledged Money, Loose Offering, Special Gifts, Memorial General Funds, and previously ELCA/NW MN Synod Grants (ELCA has provided more than \$123,000). Beginning March 2017, we began a collaboration and partnership with GPR Parish, who contracts with Living Grace for half of Pr. Hope’s time. In addition to these resources, we need to create a signature event (monthly or annually) that can also help offset ministry funding needs.

- ELCA Grant: 2016: \$15,000; 2016: \$10,000; 2017: \$10,000; 2018, 2019, and 2020: \$0/year
- Mission Investment Fund used in 2019:
In 2018, we took \$17,600 out of Mission Investment Fund.

GPR Contract with Living Grace (2019) Total Income: \$38,699.04

A Snapshot of Offering for 2019

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>2019 Offering</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>2019 OFFERING</u>
January	\$2,514	July	\$2,575.50
February	\$1,770	August	\$2,406
March	\$3,340	September	\$2,481
Noisy Offering: \$193 (Synod)		October	\$4,325
April	\$2,547	November	\$2,883
May	\$2,460	December	\$3,189
June	\$2,165	2019 TOTAL OFFERING:	\$32,848.50

2017 Offering: \$31,382.00

2018 Offering: \$31,456.32

2019 Offering: \$32,848.50

** 2020 Budget was tabled and will be presented within a few weeks.*

2019 Budget – In Words and Actions:

“The community of Living Grace exists to make known God’s love and grace by welcoming everyone, sharing the story of Jesus, growing in faith, and serving beyond ourselves.”

Welcoming Everyone:

- Summer Evening Worship/Fellowship Events
- Women’s Mutual Ministry Events: Winter Breakfast and Collection of Purses; Mother-Daughter Heirloom Tea Event; Faith and Creativity Retreat; Bible Studies/Book Studies
- Youth opportunities: Confirmation, Synod gatherings, special activities

Sharing Jesus’ Story - We bring God’s message of hope into the world:

- Regular Sunday morning Worship (September-May); Tuesday Evenings (June-July-August)
- Active in Hawley Ministerial
- Pocket Prayer Shawls
- Woodworking Ministry (at the moment inactive)

Growing in our Faith – We value faith as an ongoing journey of renewal and growth:

- Worship – We are strengthened in worship through Word and Sacrament
- Women’s Mutual Ministry: Bible Studies, Book Discussions, Special Events/Retreats
- Hartford Homes Bible study (Third Thursday of each month, open to community)
- Pr. Hope provides a Bible study at Northside Terrace on the 5th Tuesdays of a month.
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study (at Rollag)
- Youth Activities/Fundraisers Gran-Park-Rollag
- Continued joint confirmation with GPR

Serving Beyond Ourselves:

- *God's Work. Our Hands Outreach*
- Serving meals at Ronald McDonald House
- Youth helped distribute *SNAP Food Box Distribution* in October
- Pr. Hope serves on the REACH Board; several members volunteer at the REACH thrift store!
- Supporting the Wider Mission of the Church: *We recognize and respond to the needs in our community and the world.* In the past 6 years, we have given benevolence support to the Northwestern MN Synod, REACH, families in need, school milk supplies, etc.

From Pastor Hope Deutscher: Mission Developer Report – January 2020

I continue to be grateful for the ministry partnership between Gran-Park-Rollag and Living Grace! As we begin year four of the collaboration, I'm in awe of the many ways that God has been working in and among us – in ways I couldn't imagine. And I look forward to where God will take us in the new year!

All of the areas that I have become engaged with (mainly women and youth) are areas of ministry that Living Grace has lifted up as important ministry we wanted to have opportunities in for the past five years. I believe the partnership has brought energy and excitement to those two ministry areas.

For Living Grace, a significant portion of my time has to be spent preparing for worship on Sunday morning – from studying and writing sermon, creating a meaningful worship experience (choosing themes, hymns, writing elements of worship, etc.), preparing the bulletins, office work, etc. As well, I lead a monthly bible study at Hartford Homes, and lead worship services at Hawley Senior Living on a rotating basis and on the fifth Tuesdays I lead a Bible study at Northside Terrace.

In 2019, my continuing education included: training to become an ELCA Level 1 Coach, through guided conversations I help pastors and lay people facilitate change in specific areas of their life; attending the Ecumenical Center for Clergy Spiritual Renewal at the Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, WI; and I began Christos's *Tending the Holy*, a 2-year ecumenical spiritual direction program that is designed to focus on receiving the gift to be present and listen to one another's story in a healthy way through one's own prayerful practices and contemplative experiences with God. These opportunities have all contributed to helping me grow and are giving me better ways to come alongside people in their faith journey. It's been exciting to share my interests and passions around Bible studies, faith and creativity, prayer and contemplative ways to live out our faith with you. As we move into the new year, my prayer is that together we will support one another – in not only doing the work of the church but also in tending to and nurturing our own prayer life. I am excited to see how our faith and spiritual practices grow and are enhanced as we come together to be in ministry and in prayer.

As we continue on this partnership journey with GPR, there have been some challenges as we learn more about each congregation's personalities, the various gifts and ministries we all are equipped to bring to the partnership! May we remember that God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is in our midst, guiding, empowering, and inspiring us in our ministry and mission.

God's peace and blessings to you,



Pr. Hope Deutscher

A Ministry Collaboration: Gran-Park-Rollag and Living Grace

Collaboration/Partnership: The partnership between Living Grace and GPR began informally in 2015 when Living Grace and GPR joined together confirmation and youth events. In 2017, the collaboration was formalized when GPR began contracting with Living Grace for half of Pastor Hope's time; it's renewed annually. A Mutual Ministry Team, which meets monthly to discuss partnership opportunities and issues as they arise, includes one lay person from each congregation. The team is Joy Bang (Rollag), Kim Braseth (Park), Judy Shulstad (Gran), Deb Andvik and Loretta Ramstad (Living Grace), Pr. Jim Greene, Pr. Hope Deutscher, and Andrea Keene.

2017: The Mutual Ministry set these initial goals for our collaboration: 1). to have joint worship services and events, intentionally inviting one another into each other's space. We have done this through special events, open houses, Lenten services, Viking Park Outdoor Parish Worship service; Gran's Patriotic Service and annual auction/bake sale; Movie Nights at The Garrick Theater, etc. and 2). Pr. Hope to be present in all 4 churches; and Pr. Jim to be more present at Living Grace.

2018 Goals: 1). develop and implement a Lay Leadership Program, with the intention to involve as many people as possible in areas which feed a person's soul and challenges/uses their gifts; 2). develop and implement a Women's Mutual Ministry Team which would support current ministries and help evolve other ways women from all four congregations and the community could grow in their faith and support one another; and 3). to increase committee involvement, moving past the "we've always done it this way" to "what makes sense in our changing world."

We have not only started breaking down walls, but we have also come together for fun, food and fellowship for a variety of activities and events, including: taking a bus trip to see Twins Games; eating dinner together at Ella Marie's Café; youth have attended the 2018 National Youth Gathering, Middle School Gathering, and participated in fundraisers and outreach activities together. We have also come together to create a Pocket Prayer Shawl Ministry, distributing over 700 little prayer shawls at the 2018 NWMN Synod Assembly, funerals, community services and individuals at the four churches. This valuable ministry continues.

Since the spring of 2017, Women's Mutual Ministry has offered special events, regularly scheduled One Night Book Discussions and Bible Discussions at member's homes and local restaurants/churches; Faith and Creativity Retreats; a Spiritual Retreat, and events to collect purses/bags for women, men and youth that were distributed to REACH-Hawley and Mary's Place-Detroit Lakes.

2019: The Mutual Ministry Team outlined the following goals for for the collaboration: 1). Support the hiring of a full-time youth director; 2). Research establishing a personnel committee, which is in progress; and 3). Participate in the NWMN ELCA Synod's *Practicing Resurrection: Congregational Vitality 2.0* with Rev. Dr. Rick Morse, from the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation.

"The context for congregations is no longer within four walls of their church building, but the world around. By looking at the changes in culture towards congregations and with the tools to interpret their community, congregations will see new ways in which they can engage others in a vital faith community." - Rick Morse. This initiative, which helps strengthen and vitalize congregations, will cost \$400 for the collaboration, thanks to a generous ELCA grant to the Synod. The initiative includes putting together a team from GPR and Living Grace that will attend these four workshops:

- Saturday, February 15- Workshop 1: *Developing a Model for Missional Success* (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran-Detroit Lakes)
- Saturday, April 25 - Workshop 2: *Imagining a new future for your congregation*
- Saturday, June 27 - Workshop 3: *Building capacity to move towards a new future*
- Saturday, Oct. 10 - Workshop 4: *Sharing and measuring our work and outcomes*

Congregational transformation is moving us from the thinking of a "congregation for us" towards a "congregation that connects people to God's mission." We feel it is important to engage with this series of workshops to help up grow as a collaboration, a parish, and as congregations as we continually ask ourselves *Where is the Holy Spirit leading us? What are other ways we can experience our faith and be engaged in the collaboration, the parish and the communities of Rollag, Hawley, Barnesville, etc.?*

We look forward to 2020 and where the Holy Spirit will lead our collaboration in ministry!

Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene